

LSA 2016 Graduate Student Workshop

“IMPROVISE!: DEVELOPING YOUR LAW AND SOCIETY RESEARCH IN THE BIG EASY”

New Orleans is known as the birthplace of jazz music. Generations of jazz performers from around the world have traveled to “The Big Easy” to celebrate jazz, hone their talent, and participate in improvisational “jam sessions” with fellow musicians at famous local venues. Through improvisation, these musicians draw inspiration from the environment around them – and from each other – to produce a unique, emergent musical composition.

Following this tradition, the 2016 Graduate Student Workshop will bring together graduate students, early scholars, and leading faculty in the field of law and society for a day and a half of focused interaction, networking, and dialogue. Our goals are to build intellectual community, form network ties across institutions and disciplines, sharpen students’ research projects, and support students in forging career paths in socio-legal studies.

A cornerstone of the workshop will be several New-Orleans-jazz-inspired “jam sessions” that bring together small groups of students and faculty members for focused and constructive dialogue about students’ individual research projects. These sessions aim to foster the development of students’ research through discussion of their own, and others’, substantive research and methodological approaches.

Other components of the workshop will focus on building community among socio-legal scholars. Esteemed speakers and panel sessions will present a variety of perspectives on the field and generate discussion about socio-legal career paths and current directions in research on law and society. And, shared meals and coffee breaks will provide opportunities to build ties and promote collaboration and improvisation among socio-legal scholars.

A preliminary agenda for the workshop is included below.

We invite applications from graduate students in any field (including advanced law students) whose scholarly interests involve socio-legal studies. Applicants who are selected for participation will be asked to provide a biosketch and draft of a research paper, dissertation chapter, or research proposal at least two weeks before the workshop for circulation to faculty and graduate student attendees.

**2016 Graduate Student Workshop
Law & Society Association Annual Meeting**

“IMPROVISE! : DEVELOPING YOUR LAW AND SOCIETY RESEARCH IN THE BIG EASY”

New Orleans, Louisiana

May 31 – June 1, 2016

AGENDA

Tuesday, May 31

- 4:00-4:15 pm **Welcome and Introductions**
- 4:15-5:15 **Introductory Session: Career Paths in Socio-legal Studies**
Speakers will be GSW Committee Members: Jeb Barnes, Jae-Hyup Lee, Laura Beth Nielsen, Rashmee Singh, Neil Vidmar, and Erin York Cornwell
- 5:15-5:45 **Conference registration and coffee**
- 5:45-7:00 **Keynote Address (with Early Career Workshop): Susan S. Silbey**
Leon and Anne Goldberg Professor of Humanities, Sociology, and Anthropology and Professor of Behavioral and Policy Sciences at the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 7:00-9:00 **Reception and Dinner**

Wednesday, June 1

- 8:00-8:45 am **Breakfast (with Early Career Workshop)**
- 8:45-9:00 **Welcome**
- 9:00-10:15 **Jam Session #1** – Research discussion groups
- 10:15-10:45 **Coffee Break**
- 10:45-12:00 **Jam session #2** – Research discussion groups
- 12:00-12:45 **Lunch (with Early Career Workshop)**
- 12:45-2:00 pm **Plenary Session (with Early Career Workshop): Laura E. Gómez**
Professor of Law, Sociology, and Chicana/Chicano Studies at UCLA
- 2:00-2:15 **Coffee Break**
- 2:15-3:30 **Jam session #3** – Research discussion groups
- 3:30-4:00 **Coffee Break**
- 4:00-4:45 **Small groups on research methods and data resources**
- 4:45-5:00 **Coffee Break**
- 5:00-6:30 **Panel Discussion: Current directions in law and society scholarship.** Speakers TBD.

Dinner and jazz shows – not covered by LSA, but may be coordinated informally during the workshop to provide an opportunity for attendees to go out together.

2016 Graduate Student Workshop Speakers

[Susan S. Silbey](#)

Susan S. Silbey is Leon and Anne Goldberg Professor of Sociology and Anthropology and Professor of Behavioral and Policy Sciences at the Sloan School of Management at MIT. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Chicago and post-graduate training in ethnography in the Sociology Department of Brandeis University. She is currently working on a new book, *The Struggle for Accountability: Systems, Science and Surveillance* describing the regulatory penetration of scientific laboratories. Susan, however, is most fond of her remembrance of her mentor, Egon Bittner, "Are You Ready to Listen," that appeared in *Ethnographic Studies*, in 2013 and her analysis of the legal economy of urban streets in "J. Locke, op. cit.: Invocations of Law on Snowy Streets," in the *Journal of Comparative Law*, 2010.

Silbey is the recipient of numerous prizes and awards including a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship (2009), Doctor Honoris Causa from Ecole Normale Supérieure Cachan in Paris (2006), LSA's Harry Kalven Jr. Prize for advancing the sociology of law (2009) and LSA's Stanton Wheeler Mentorship Award (2015). She is Past President of the Law & Society Association, and a fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. She is currently (2015-2016) in residence as a visiting scholar at the University of New South Wales in Sydney and at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Paris.

[Laura E. Gómez](#)

Laura E. Gómez is Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law. She is also appointed in the Departments of Sociology and Chicana/Chicano Studies at UCLA. Professor Gómez was co-founder and the first co-director of UCLA's Critical Race Studies Program. She was the youngest person and first person of color ever elected to serve as President of the Law & Society Association, an office she held from 2009-2011. She has been an associate editor of the *Law & Society Review* and a member of the editorial board of *Law & Social Inquiry*.

Professor Gomez's scholarship focuses on the intersection of law, politics, and social stratification in both contemporary and historical contexts. Her books include *Misconceiving Mothers: Legislators, Prosecutors, and the Politics of Prenatal Drug Exposure* (1997) and *Manifest Destinies: The Making of the Mexican American Race* (2007). In 2013, she published a co-edited volume (with Nancy López): *Mapping 'Race': Critical Approaches to Health Disparities Research*. Her most recent book, *A New Color Line: Latinos and the Future of Race*, is forthcoming in 2017 from The New Press.

2016 Graduate Student Workshop Committee

Chair:

[Erin York Cornwell](#)

Erin York Cornwell is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Sesquicentennial Faculty Fellow in the College of Arts & Sciences at Cornell University. She earned a B.A. in Sociology from Wellesley College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from The University of Chicago. Her research examines inequalities in the law, with a focus on how social status, social connectedness, and social capital affect legal outcomes. Research published in *Social Forces* (2005) and *Law & Society Review* (2012) utilizes post-verdict surveys in urban courts to explore how social status structures jury deliberations. In more recent work, she considers how disparities in legal representation shape felony jury verdicts, and how social networks structure informal access to legal advice when individuals face legal problems in their everyday life.

Committee Members:

[Jeb Barnes](#)

Jeb Barnes is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Southern California, where he teaches courses in law, politics and public policy. He has published five books and numerous peer-reviewed articles on topics ranging from asbestos litigation and disability rights to the use of mixed-methods to study causal mechanisms. His latest book (with Thomas F. Burke), *How Policy Shapes Politics: Rights, Courts, Litigation, and the Struggle over Injury Compensation*, was published in 2015 as part of Oxford's series on Postwar American Political Development. He is currently working on a project that compares media coverage of tort litigation and social insurance programs and seeks to assess the effect of different types of coverage on attitudes towards claimants and the claiming process.

[Jae-Hyup Lee](#)

Jae-Hyup Lee is Professor of Law at Seoul National University. He earned a BA in anthropology at Seoul National University, a PhD in American Civilization at the University of Pennsylvania, and a JD at Northwestern University in Chicago. He is the author of *Dynamics of Ethnic Identity: Three Asian American Communities in Philadelphia* (RoutledgeCurzon, 1998). Professor Lee's research interest includes the environmental law, the intersection between law and culture, and the empirical studies on the jury as well as the legal profession. For the past few years, he has been analyzing shadow jury deliberations in more than 40 actual cases in Korea in connection with Korea's ongoing jury trial reforms. In 2014, he led a comprehensive empirical survey of Korean lawyers to examine their career trajectories and legal consciousness, similar in concept to the *After the JD* project in the United States.

[Laura Beth Nielsen](#)

Laura Beth Nielsen is a Research Professor at the American Bar Foundation as well as an Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Legal Studies at Northwestern University. Her research focuses on law's capacity for social change. Her primary field is the sociology of law, with particular interests in legal consciousness (how ordinary people understand the law) and the relationship between law and inequalities of race, gender, and class. Her first monograph, *License to Harass: Law, Hierarchy, and Offensive Public Speech*, (Princeton University Press, 2004) studies racist and sexist street speech, targets' reactions and responses to it, and attitudes about using law to deal with such speech. In addition, she is the author of numerous articles published in the *UCLA Law Review*, *Law and Society Review*, *Law and Social Inquiry*, *Law and Policy*, *Stanford Journal of Law and Policy*, and the *Wisconsin Law Review*.

[Rashmee Singh](#)

Rashmee Singh is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Legal Studies at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. Her current research projects draw on the insights of feminist legal theory, governance scholarship, and critical legal studies to examine the prosecution of violence against women. Her work also focuses on the use of specialized courts to govern sex work and domestic violence. Rashmee is the author of "When Punishment and Philanthropy Mix: Voluntary Organizations and the Governance of the Domestic Violence Offender", *Theoretical Criminology* (2012). Her forthcoming publication is "'Please Check the Appropriate Box:' Documents and the Governance of Domestic Violence", with *Law and Society Inquiry*.

[Neil Vidmar](#)

Russell M. Robinson II is Professor of Law and Professor of Psychology at Duke University and Research Director for the Law School's Center for Criminal Justice and Ethical Responsibility. His scholarly research involves the empirical study of law across a broad spectrum of topics in civil and criminal law. A social psychologist by training, Vidmar is a leading expert on jury behavior in both criminal and civil cases. He has extensively studied medical malpractice litigation; punitive damages; dispute resolution; and the social psychology of retribution and revenge. In addition to over 200 articles and reports in law reviews and social science journals, Vidmar is the author, with Valerie P. Hans, of *American Juries: The Verdict* (Prometheus

Books, 2007) and *Judging the Jury* (1986). His other books include *Medical Malpractice and the American Jury: Confronting the Myths about Jury Incompetence; Deep Pockets and Outrageous Damage Awards* (University of Michigan Press, 1995); and *World Jury Systems* (Oxford University Press, 2000).